

Nearly Forgotten Facts

Honesdale's First Teacher

Lewis Pestana was Honesdale's first school teacher. He commenced his professional duties in the spring of 1828, shortly after Honesdale was laid out as a town. The original school board was composed of J. B. Walton, A. H. Farnham, J. D. Delezenne and S. W. Genung. This was in 1833, when the Honesdale academy was erected. It stood on the site of the present two-story brick school. School report in 1878 credited Honesdale and Texas township with 11 schools. Among the academy's first teachers were Miss Louisa C. Keen and Miss Ruth Terrell, who taught from 1867 to 1873; Miss Jennie Brownscombe, internationally known portrait painter and artist, 1868; Miss Rowena Spencer from 1876 to 1885. In a list of pupils attending the old academy in 1844-5-6- when B. B. Smith was principal, George Foster, late of Honesdale was mentioned. Texas levied for school purposes in 1878 and \$5,029.21.

—E.B.C.

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